MLN Matters
Information for Medicare Fee-for-Service Health Care Professionals

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Related Change Request (CR) #: 6421

Effective Dates: Phase 1 – October 1, 2009

Implementation Date: Phase 1 – October 5, 2009
Phase 2 – July 5, 2011 (Placeholder)

Expansion of the Current Scope of Editing for Ordering/Referring Providers for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Suppliers' Claims Processed by Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs)

NOTE: This article was revised on December 17, 2010, to reflect the changes in the release of a revised CR 6421 on December 16, 2010. The CR was revised to show that implementation date for Phase 2 is being delayed and will not begin on January 3, 2011. A placeholder date of July 5, 2011 has been stated in the revised CR 6421. This placeholder date is being issued to give the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services more flexibility to determine the appropriate date for nonpayment of claims that fail the ordering/referring provider edits.

Provider Types Affected

Suppliers of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) submitting claims to Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) for items or services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Provider Action Needed

This article is based on change request (CR) 6421, which requires Medicare implementation of system edits to assure that DMEPOS suppliers bill for items or services only when those items or services are ordered or referred by physician and non-physician practitioners who are eligible to order/refer such services. Physician and non-physician practitioners must be enrolled in the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) and of the type/specialty eligible to order/refer services for Medicare beneficiaries. Be sure

billing staff are aware of these changes that will impact DMEPOS claims received and processed on or after October 5, 2009.

Background

CMS is expanding claim editing to meet the Social Security Act requirements for ordering and referring providers. Section 1833(q) of the Social Security Act requires that all ordering and referring physicians and non-physician practitioners meet the definitions at section 1861(r) and 1842(b)(18)(C) and be uniquely identified in all claims for items and services that are the results of orders or referrals. Effective January 1, 1992, a provider or supplier who bills Medicare for an item or service that was ordered or referred must show the name and unique identifier of the ordering/referring provider on the claim.

The providers who can order/refer are:

- Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy;
- Dental Medicine;
- Dental Surgery;
- Podiatric Medicine;
- Optometry;
- Chiropractic Medicine;
- Physician Assistant;
- Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist;
- Nurse Practitioner;
- Clinical Psychologist;
- Certified Nurse Midwife; and
- Clinical Social Worker.

Claims that are the result of an order or a referral must contain the National Provider Identifier (NPI) and the name of the ordering/referring provider and the ordering/referring provider must be in PECOS with one of the above specialties.

Key Points

- During Phase 1 (October 5, 2009- July 5, 2011 (Placeholder date)): If the ordering/referring provider is not on the claim, the claim will not be paid.If the ordering/referring provider is on the claim, Medicare will verify that the

ordering/referring provider is in PECOS and is eligible to order/refer in Medicare. If the ordering/referring provider is not in PECOS or is in PECOS but is not of the type/specialty to order or refer, the claim will continue to process.

1. If the DMEPOS supplier claim is an ANSI X12N 837P standard electronic claim, the DMEPOS supplier will receive a warning message on the Common Electronic Data Interchange (CEDI) GenResponse Report.
2. If the DMEPOS supplier claim is a paper CMS-1500 claim, the DMEPOS supplier will not receive a warning and will not know that the claim did not pass these edits.

- During Phase 2, (July 5, 2011 (Placeholder) and thereafter): If the ordering/referring provider is not on the claim, the claim will not be paid. If the ordering/referring provider is on the claim, Medicare will verify that the ordering/referring provider is in PECOS and eligible to order and refer. If the ordering/referring provider is not in PECOS or is in PECOS but is not of the specialty to order or refer, the claim will not be paid. It will be rejected.
    1. If the DMEPOS supplier claim is an ANSI X12N 837P standard electronic claim, the DMEPOS supplier will receive a rejection message on the CEDI GenResponse Report.
    2. If the DMEPOS supplier claim is a paper CMS-1500 claim, the DMEPOS supplier will see the rejection indicated on the Remittance Advice.
- In both phases, Medicare will verify the NPI and the name of the ordering/referring provider reported on the ANSI X12N 837P standard electronic claim against PECOS.
- When furnishing names on the paper claims, be sure not to use periods or commas within the name. Hyphenated names are permissible.
- Providers who order or refer may want to verify their enrollment in PECOS. They may do so by accessing Internet-based PECOS at https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/pecos/login.do on the CMS website. Before using Internet-based PECOS, providers should read the educational material about Internet-based PECOS that is available at http://www.cms.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/04_InternetbasedPECOS.asp on the CMS website. Once at that site, scroll to the downloads section of that page and click on the materials that apply to you and your practice.

Additional Information

If you have questions, please contact your Medicare DME MAC at its toll-free number, which may be found at http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip on the CMS website.

The official instruction, CR6421, issued to your Medicare DME MAC regarding this change, may be viewed at http://www.cms.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R823OTN.pdf on the CMS website.